

income that would have been received and spent through the local economy. For example, some economists in recent years have placed a cost of about \$35,000 on the rearing of a child from birth through high school -- and this would be even higher now in view of the continued rise in the cost of living. Using this figure, it can be assumed that a considerable amount of money was drained from the community over the past ten to fifteen years alone if as much as one-third of the people who left the community were children of school age.

Manpower is also lost in outmigration. Young, career-minded workers go elsewhere in the state or nation. Most of these potential workers have at least a high school education and would have acquired a skill in local plants with a minimum of training. This, coupled with the affects on the overall population mentioned in the earlier section of this study, make worthwhile any efforts that are aimed toward encouraging young people to stay in the community and others to locate here.

### Unemployment

Unemployment in the planning area appears to have lowered since the 1960 census. (In 1960, the Catawba County unemployed portion of the civilian labor force was 3.8%, and 4.5% for the state as a whole.) A sample labor survey was made in connection with this study in late 1968, and most employers contacted were interested in hiring more workers immediately. Of six major employers interviewed, four anticipated a need for additional workers within the next three years -- ranging in need from gradual expansion to increases in their present work force of as much as 500 persons.